



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

August 6, 2008

Dear Industrial Stormwater General Permit Holder:

The Industrial Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit, issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on August 21, 2002, and reissued on August 15, 2007, expired on May 31, 2008. Ecology proposes to reissue the expired general permit, without changes, with an expiration date of April 30, 2009. Even though the reissued permit will be identical to the permit your facility is currently covered by, state regulation requires Ecology to follow a formal public notice process to reissue the expired permit for additional time. The draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit and fact sheet proposed for reissuance are available for review and public comment from August 6, 2008 through September 12, 2008.

Over the next several months Ecology will be working with a small external advisory committee to develop a revised permit. One of the objectives for the committee in developing a revised permit is a simpler and more effective general permit. The committee will also address a broad range of permit related issues, including stormwater research and development, technical assistance, education and outreach, compliance inspections, and enforcement. More information on the external advisory committee process is available at Ecology's website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/index.html>.

Purpose of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

The general permit provides coverage for industries located in Washington State that discharge stormwater associated with industrial activities. Under federal and state water quality law (Federal Clean Water Act and State Water Pollution Control Act) a permit is required for the discharge of wastewater. A discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activities is considered a discharge of wastewater.

Applying for Coverage under the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

Facilities covered under the existing Industrial Stormwater General Permit will be automatically covered under the reissued permit. New or unpermitted facilities may obtain coverage under the reissued general permit by submitting a complete permit application to Ecology and satisfying all applicable public notice and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements (Chapter 173-226-200 WAC). The application is available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ecy02084.html>.

Requesting Copies of the Permit

You may download copies of the draft permit and fact-sheet from our website:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/index.html. Or you may request copies from:

Julie Robertson

Telephone: (360) 407-6575

E-Mail: jrob461@ecy.wa.gov

Submitting Written and Oral Comments

Ecology will accept written and oral comments on the draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit and fact



August 6, 2008

Page 2

sheet. Comments should reference specific text when possible. Comments may address the following:

- Technical issues.
- Accuracy and completeness of information.
- The scope of facilities proposed for coverage.
- Adequacy of environmental protection and permit conditions.
- Any other concern that would result from issuance of the revised permit.

Ecology prefers comments be submitted by email to industrialstormwatercomments@ecy.wa.gov. Written comments must be postmarked or received via email no later than **5pm, Friday, September 12, 2008**. You may provide oral comments by testifying at the public hearings. Submit written, hard copy comments to:

Julie Robertson
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Public Workshops/Hearings

The public workshop and hearing on the draft general permit will be held in Lacey, Washington on September 11, 2008. The purpose of the workshop is to explain Ecology's rationale for reissuing the general permit for an interim period until it issues a revised permit in early 2009. The purpose of the hearings is to provide an opportunity for people to give formal oral testimony and comments on the draft permit.

September 11, 2008 (1 p.m.) – Lacey

Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey (360) 407-6000

Driving directions: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/images/offices/map_hq_swro.pdf

Issuing the Final Industrial Stormwater General Permit

The final permit will be issued after Ecology receives and considers all public comments. Ecology expects to issue the general permit on October 1, 2008. It will be effective 30 days later. When issued, Ecology will send you a copy of the new permit cover page.

Reduce Zinc in Industrial Stormwater

Recently, Ecology developed new guidance to help identify and reduce sources of zinc at industrial facilities. Reducing zinc at the source is more effective and economical than costly treatment of stormwater runoff. This guidance document is available from our website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0810025.html>

Sincerely,



Bill Moore, P.E., Section Manager
Program Development Services
Water Quality Program